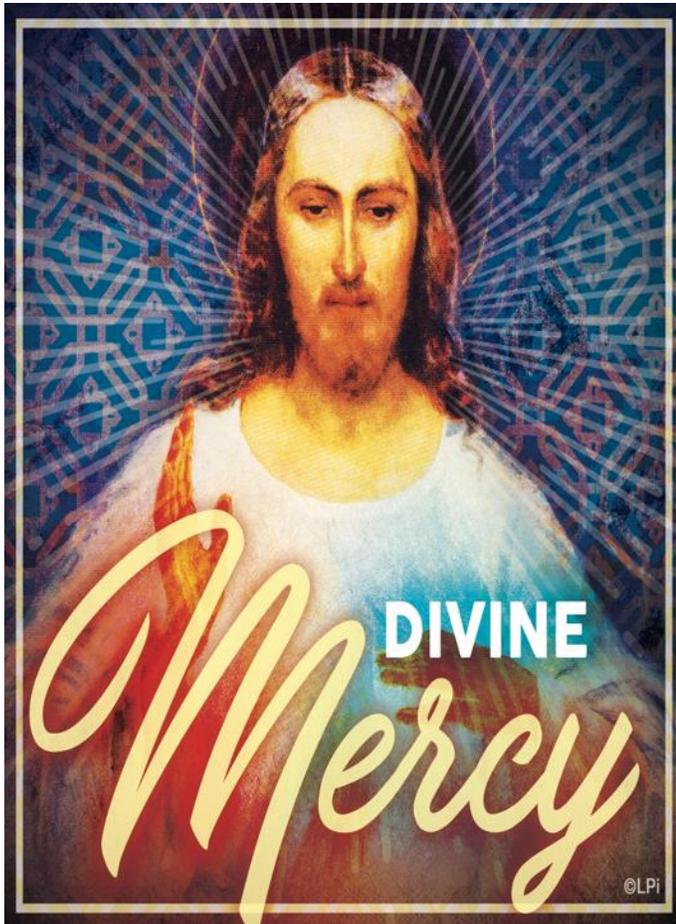

HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

SACRED HEART CHAPEL



On this Divine Mercy Sunday, "all parishes throughout the country are encouraged to join together in prayer and adoration seeking God's mercy for ourselves and for our nation." (USCCB)

Holy Rosary Catholic Church
35 Franklin St.
Buckhannon, WV 26201
304-472-3414

Pastor
Reverend Joseph McLaughlin, S.M.
Pastoral Associate
Brother Roy Madigan, S.M.
Deacon
Reverend Mr. Rue Thompson

Website
www.holyrosarywv.org

Facebook
Holy Rosary Catholic Church

To Our Parishioners:

We hope you are all staying safe during this difficult time in our country. Please know that we are praying for you and for your families. If you are in need of food or other basic necessities, please call the rectory and we will be happy to help.

Beyond the Habit: A Reflection by Sister Jean McGrath, CSJ



At the parish school where I worked, we had a long-standing tradition each Ash Wednesday. As part of our prayer service, we

symbolically “boxed up” the word “Alleluia” as a way to tell the children that the next forty days are a special time in the church year and that they would not be hearing that word until it is joyously proclaimed at Easter. As I think about this blog, I am wondering how we will unwrap the Alleluia this year.

If you, like me, are spending hours scanning various screens during our imposed isolation, you are probably experiencing a surreal world. One of the most difficult things for me has been trying to balance scenes of overcrowded emergency rooms and the daily announcement of mounting casualties with the amazing tales of heroism, creative ways to stay connected with friends and families, virtual concerts, and inspiring messages of hope from around the world. Trying to balance both is in itself a challenge to my mind, my heart, and my desire to be a person of deeper faith and trust.

This blog will be posted right before Holy Thursday, the beginning of a Triduum time which none of us could have imagined and that most of us will be celebrating very differently this year. We will not be at mass together. We will not be witnessing the ancient rite of the washing of feet, the reading of the passion narrative, the lighting of the Easter Fire. We will not be having Easter egg hunts, lavish Easter brunches, or spring vacations to sunny and warm places across the country. But will we be able to unwrap the Alleluia?

What will we do to ensure that we can shout the Easter Alleluia even if it is from our front porch or on our computer screen? As we approach the holiest time of the Church year (and the Easter Season) I am challenging myself and you to make sure the Alleluia rings across our world, our neighborhood and in the confines of the homes in which we are literally confined.

I am going to start with prayer; prayer for those who have contracted the virus and for those who love them. (A friend of mine, the mother of nine and grandmother of 27 has the virus and is totally quarantined from them. Her isolation is more painful than the horrific cough that has lingered for weeks.) I am going to pray for the first responders, those doctors and nurses who literally put their lives on the line every time they report for a new shift. I am going to pray for the President and his staff. Although we may have vastly different political views and I wonder “why” and “if only”, the challenges they face are enormous. I pray that the difficult decisions they need to make each day will be informed not only by scientific data but also by deep wisdom and heartfelt compassion.

I am challenging myself to be less frightened and more faith-filled during these Triduum days. Discouragement is itself a contagious virus but I am encouraged by the words of a journalist whom I deeply respect: “the only thing that spreads faster than this virus is hope.” If you look, you will see hope everywhere.

Finally, I am going to find small concrete things I can do from my isolation booth (my apartment). Maybe make an Easter basket for the nurse across the street? Maybe make phone calls to seniors in the parish whom I know will be alone on Easter Sunday. Maybe a gift card for the girl who cuts my hair who will be out of work for another six weeks.... The alleluia opportunities are endless.

There will be no Easter liturgy in our parish this year to unwrap the Alleluia, but it will be unwrapped and will be an anthem to sustain us well beyond the recently extended days of social isolation. It will be the heartfelt hope that unites us even if we must stay six feet or six thousand miles apart. It will be the promise of new life in Spring, in Easter, and in all of us.

And so, (a few days in advance) ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

About the Author

After years as a Catholic School Principal, Sister Jean McGrath is looking forward to volunteer service now that she has retired. She loves a good book, a good conversation and a good bargain (copied with permission)

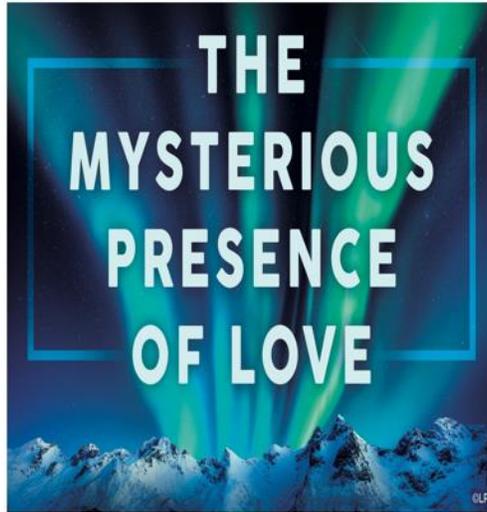
GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, "I am here on purpose and I am loved!" Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation's grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am.

While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I don't-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person's soul. Stumbling upon this awesome



truth and internalizing it doesn't require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn't matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The "my Lord and my God" responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The "my Lord and my God" affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and

silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy. God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. "Peace be with you." Breathe in and breathe out. Peace.

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." - Jn 20:26-27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2007, 1998, 1970 CCD

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APRIL 19, 2020

Please remember in your prayers

Bertha Small, Kate Deasy, Rosemary Austin, Phil Halligan, Randy Trent, Macyah Riley, Karen Trent, Jack Call, Joe Morton, Matthew Linger, David Vincent, Seth Poling, Cathy Lipscomb, Hugh Hensil, Charity Manspeaker, Barbara Elmore, Freddy Caimotto, James Barton, Mike Cerullo, Darell Hyre, Diane Hyre, Lorene Hardman, Freda Cawthon, Vicki Dibble, Gerogetta Sears, Rue Thompson, Eric Harkness, Pat Daigneault, Duane Lohr, Jeff Ball, Linda Hicks, Jane Baxter, Shaelyn Posey, Bill Baxa, P.T. Garton, John Egress, Jalen Welcome, Ron Byrd, Helena Bessinger.

Please pray for all men and women serving in the military.

Please pray for our homebound

Gene & Mary Stump, Denna Bayless, Anna Stalnaker, Ron Frye, Gerald Hackney, Rocena Asbury, John Sneberger, Lorraine McLean, James McCartney, Nancy Beverlin, Shirley Linger, Rosie Ketterman, Shirley Helmick, William McLean, Lorene Hardman, Anna Powell, Barbara Elmore, Gerry Stankus

Eucharistic Liturgies

Saturday, April 18

Parishioners of Holy Rosary

Sunday, April 19

Tom O'Shea

Monday, April 20

Cody and Travis

Tuesday, April 21

Promis and Valena

Wednesday, April 22

The Pallottines

Thursday, April 23

Poor Souls Deceased

Friday, April 24

Poor Souls Living

Saturday, April 25

Holy Rosary Parishioners

Sunday, April 26

Anthony Dahman and Family

Birthdays for April

April 15 Libby Anderegg
April 18 Dennis Cortes
April 19 Lany Wijayani
April 21 Linda Hicks
April 24 Donna Gjolberg
April 28 Arthur Sayre
April 29 Denna Bayless
April 29 Brian Nanners
April 30 Chase Lewellen

Congratulations to Pam and Mike Wilson who celebrate their wedding anniversary this month!